

7 April 1972

The Honorable John Stennis, Chairman
Senate Armed Services Committee
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Chairman:

I enclose herewith, for the Committee record, my
answers to questions submitted by Senators Thurmond and
Hughes at the hearings yesterday on my nomination as Deputy
Director of Central Intelligence.

Respectfully,

Vernon A. Walters
Major General, USA

Enclosures

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Answers to Questions from Senator Thurmond

1. Question

General Walters, I think that many of us are concerned to see that our foreign intelligence-gathering program relies on a proper balance of factors, such as military data, economic data, political data, and so forth. Your career so far has been in Defense Intelligence. What differences in approach and function do you see between DIA and CIA?

Answer

The basic difference between DIA and CIA is that DIA is concerned with departmental intelligence -- that intelligence, both strategic and tactical, which is required by the military establishment. Its mission is to serve the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. DIA is concerned primarily with military and military-related matters.

The CIA, as I understand it, is concerned with national intelligence -- that intelligence required by the President and the National Security Council in the formulation of national policy. The CIA reviews the intelligence activities of the other Government departments and agencies and advises the National Security Council regarding these activities as they relate to the national security.

2. Question

What do you understand to be the new responsibilities in the post of Deputy Director as a result of the intelligence reorganization of last November?

Answer

As I understand my position, the Deputy Director of CIA is not in the chain of command. The only authority he has is that delegated to him by the Director.

3. Question

How do you evaluate the role of intelligence-gathering in the complex effort of today's international decision-making?

Answer

It is certainly my feeling that in this day of serious international tensions in many areas, and actual armed conflict in some, and of the steadily

growing destructive capacity of modern weapon systems, the importance of accurate and timely intelligence has never been greater. I believe this intelligence is quite as important in the interest of preserving peace and of contributing to correct policy decisions as it is in assuring adequate national defense for war.

4. Question

Do you have any suggestions as to how our overall intelligence-gathering effort can be improved?

Answer

I think it would be presumptuous of me to offer an opinion on this very important subject at this stage. If confirmed, I will certainly devote close attention to this problem and perhaps in time be able to offer some constructive comments.

Answer to Questions from Senator Hughes

With regard to the questions posed by Senator Hughes, I would like to make the following statement:

I have but recently returned from extended overseas duties, and at this stage I am simply not familiar with the magnitude and complexities of the problems evoked in Senator Hughes' questions. I am not yet settled in at CIA, and it would be presumptuous of me at this stage to attempt to answer these questions at a time when I really have no competence to do so. I would hope that in the future, when I am more thoroughly read in on these problems, I will be in a better position to express views on these very important matters.

Answers to Questions from Senator Thurmond

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The basic difference between DIA and CIA is that DIA is concerned with departmental intelligence--that intelligence both strategic and tactical which is required by the military establishment. Its mission is to serve the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staffs and is concerned primarily with military and military related matters.

The CIA, as I understand it, is concerned with national intelligence--that intelligence required by the President and the National Security Council in the formulation of national policy. In a sense, it presides over the intelligence activities of the other Government departments and agencies, and advises the National Security Council regarding these activities as they relate to the national security. It correlates and evaluates intelligence bearing on the national security, drawing on the raw intelligence collected by the various departmental agencies as well as that collected by the resources of the CIA. Its job is to provide the top levels of Government with the final end product of the national intelligence process to which a number of agencies contribute.

One important difference between CIA and the other intelligence agencies, including DIA, is that CIA has no departmental connections or policy responsibilities and is thus free from departmental pressures and parochial interests. In addition, CIA is under the National Security Act of 1947 charged with performing for the benefit of other members of the intelligence community additional services of common concern assigned to it by the National Security Council.

2. What do you understand to be the new responsibilities in the post of Deputy Director as a result of the intelligence reorganization of last November?

Since I've only recently returned from extended overseas service, and have not really "settled in" at the CIA to the extent of familiarizing myself with all the duties and responsibilities of the position for which I've been nominated, I can't give a specific answer to your question at this time. However, I can certainly give a general answer, and that is I have, during my career, sometimes been a chief and sometimes been a deputy and there is in my mind no question that the deputy does what the chief tells him to do.

3. How do you evaluate the role of intelligence-gathering in the complex effort of today's international decision-making?

It is certainly my feeling that in this day of serious international tensions in many areas, and actual armed conflict in some, and of the steadily growing destructive capacity of modern weapon systems, the importance of accurate and timely intelligence has never been greater. I believe this intelligence is quite as important in the interest of preserving peace as it is in assuring adequate preparations for war. I believe this because I am convinced the greatest danger of war may arise from miscalculation by one side or the other, and I think our own policy makers must have good intelligence to avoid miscalculation on their part, and also to avoid giving our possible enemies erroneous impressions which might lead them to disastrous miscalculations. I also believe good intelligence is vital if we are ever to achieve meaningful disarmament, because I don't think the American people, or their elected representatives, would want to put their trust in a disarmament agreement unless we had good enough intelligence to alert us if it was being violated to a significant extent.

4. Do you have any suggestions as to how our over-all intelligence-gathering effort can be improved?

For the reasons I have already stated, I think it would be presumptuous for me to offer an opinion on this subject at this stage. If confirmed I will certainly devote close attention to this problem and perhaps in time be able to offer some constructive comments.

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